and consequent losses to foreign companies;

(b) whether such an attitude is likely to create differences in the bilateral trade relations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what steps propose to take to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) The Berlin Office of the Embassy of India has not received any complaints from foreign entrepreneurs against India PSUs. However, Government are aware of some commercial complaints raised by German companies against India companies/PSUs. Complaints of a commercial nature are basically for the parties concerned to resolve between themselves. Wherever necessary, Government uses what good offices are possible to facilitate a resolution of such differences.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Indian books seized by the Bangladesh Government

437. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Bangladesh Government have seized hundreds of Indian titles exhibited at Book Fair recently;

(b) if so, details of the books seized including the titles;

(c) whether Government did take up the matter with Bangladesh Government;

(d) whether Government have demanded compensation from Bangladesh Government for the loss incurred by Indian Publishers;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(f) whether Government propose to raise this issue in the next SAARC conference so that such actions are not resorted to by the SAARC nations against each other?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) We have seen reports that Indian books and posters were banned at the Annual Book Fair organised by the Bangla Academy, Dhaka in February, 1995. When several book sellers ignored the ban, the Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association along with the Bangla Academy decided to impose the ban. A team of students and cultural activists seized several hundred Indian books and posters and removed them from the stalls on February 3, 1995 in the presence of the officials of the Bangla Academy and others.

(b) No details of the books seized at the Book Fair are available. The display of books was arranged by local book sellers in Dhaka.

(c) to (e) Government have not taken up with the Government of Bangladesh the issue of the ban imposed on Indian books at the Book Fair. The ban was not imposed by the Government of Bangladesh directly but by the Bangla Academy along with the Bangladesh Books Publishers and Sellers Association. The display was arranged by local book sellers in Dhaka; no complaint has been received from any Indian Publishers and hence the question of compensation does not arise.

(f) There is no proposal at present with Government to raise this issue in the next SAARC conference.

रूस और चेचेनिया के बीच विवाद

438. मौलाना अबेदुल्ला खान आज़मी: क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) रूस और चेचेनिया के बीच विवाद के बारे में भारत की नीति क्या है; और